

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Jesus' "In" Teaching: Greater Works

John 14.11-14

Jesus' "in" theology

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority.

Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. > "in-living"

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. > "in-believing"

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, > "in-asking"

so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

> "in-glorifying"

¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

> "in my name"

You Must Believe This!

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”

- ❖ It should be increasingly apparent to us that Jesus’ “in” emphasis holds the key to everything associated with his identity, revelation, and effectiveness.
 - ▶ Identity: *“When [a man] looks at me, he sees the One who sent me.”* (10.45)
 - ▶ Revelation: *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”* (14.7)
 - ▶ Effectiveness: *“It is the Father in me doing his work.”* (14.10)
- ❖ As we have seen, it was not a matter of inability on the part of Jesus when he said that he could do nothing without the Father; rather, it was through *union* and *surrender* that the Father was revealed and the Father’s work manifested. Through this outworking, the Father’s will was accomplished and the Father was glorified.

The Works I Have Been Doing

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

PROLOGUE 17-18

❖ In regard to his works, Jesus had previously declared to the Jews—

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working . . . Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” (5.17, 19)

❖ Jesus presented himself in interchangeable terms—e.g. *“He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father”*—and described himself as the *Seen-One* sent by the *Unseen-Father*.

- ❖ In the letter to the Ephesian church, we find an account of the “working Father”—
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In [the One He loves] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In [Christ] we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.

- ❖ What is the Father doing? He is working to accomplish the salvation of humanity. For any significant project, there are specifications and standards that must be met; scope and sequence must be determined; blueprints and mock-ups are required for the conceptual understanding for all who are involved. Constant communication is required to achieve clarity and keep the project on track.
- ❖ The Father's "project" of salvation and eternal life for humanity was the most extraordinary pursuit involving the most exacting standards. Motivated by love, He purposed to choose and adopt us in a manner that would reveal the riches of His grace. This required that we be made holy as He is holy, which necessitated a process of redemption and justification that would meet the standard of His infinite righteousness. This could only be accomplished through the Son becoming the Lamb slain before the creation of the world (Revelation 13.8). Through the Old Testament, the Father communicated specifications, scope, and sequence; He commissioned models and set deadlines in preparation for the final stage of His work.

- ❖ What are the works that Jesus has been doing? The works of the Father—revealing the Father’s heart and the standards of His kingdom; precisely representing the Father (cf. John 12.49-50) so that the Father’s purposes will be achieved; subjecting himself to the requirements of righteousness and judgment which required suffering, obedience, and finally death so that he could implement the Father’s plan to grant grace, redemption, justification, and eternal life.

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working. . . . The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (5.17; 6.29)

- ❖ This gives us greater clarity when we hear Jesus say that he can do nothing by himself—he has come to accomplish the will of the Father. By finishing the work the Father gave him to do, Jesus has brought glory to the Father, and achieved eternal life for all who believe in him (cf. John 17.2-4).

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” (5.24)

Greater Works Than These

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

JOHN 6.27-28

- ❖ In answering the question of the crowd, Jesus said: *“The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent.”* Jesus went even farther and told his disciples that those who believe in him will do greater works than he has done. What are the works that Jesus is referencing—the *“very work that the Father has given me to finish”* (5.36)? It is not the miracles—those are signs—but the work of believing in the *One-and-Only* source of grace, truth, and eternal life.

- ❖ The *what* of the work is clear; *how* and *why* does Jesus intend for his disciples to do greater works than he has been doing? “Because I am going to the Father.”

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth.” (14.16-17)

“But I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” (16.7-8)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (ACTS 1.8)

- ❖ Jesus came as the *Sent-One*, fulfilled the will of the One who had sent him, and finished the work that the Father had given him to do as “the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world” and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5.9). As his disciples, we must do the work of the One who sent him (9.4). *“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* (20.21) As his *sent-ones*, he must be in us, doing his work through us.